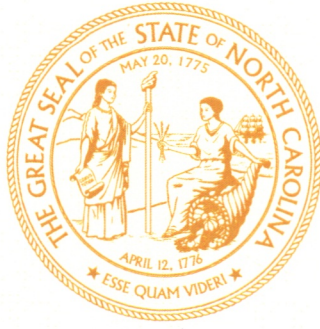




State of North Carolina

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

**IN RECOGNITION OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUMS 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

2026

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Aquariums, a division of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, began in 1976 with the opening of the Marine Resource Centers that later became our state aquariums, creating public opportunities to engage with North Carolina's aquatic ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, for five decades, the North Carolina Aquariums have inspired curiosity about and conservation of our state's waters by caring for and connecting the community with thousands of animals, rescuing and rehabilitating sea turtles, and fostering a deeper understanding of the wonders of aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, the Aquariums welcome more than a million visitors each year at four locations – Fort Fisher, Pine Knoll Shores, Roanoke Island, and Jennette's Pier providing year-round educational and recreational experiences that support coastal tourism, strengthen local economies, and bring joy to many; and

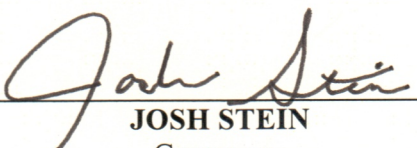
WHEREAS, the North Carolina Aquariums serve as hubs for aquatic conservation, research, and community partnerships, collaborating with universities, nonprofits, and volunteers to protect fisheries, habitats, and imperiled species; and

WHEREAS, the success and evolution of the Aquariums reflect the dedication of staff, volunteers, scientists, educators, donors, and visitors whose commitment has advanced its mission to inspire appreciation and conservation of aquatic environments; and

WHEREAS, September 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the North Carolina Aquariums, honoring a half-century of education, conservation, and public service and signaling a continued commitment to inspire future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSH STEIN, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2026 as **"IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY"** in North Carolina and commend its observance.




JOSH STEIN
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-seventh day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-sixth and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifty-first.